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MEDIA RELEASE
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RESIDENT OF NEW BOSTON, NH CHARGED WITH BANK FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Kenneth W. Kaiser, announce that Tracy Petrucelli, a 39-year-old resident of 69 Bunker Hill Rd., New Boston, New Hampshire, has been charged with bank fraud. Petrucelli was arraigned on the charges and released on her own recognizance by United States Magistrate Judge James Muirhead.

According to a Complaint that was filed in United States District Court, Petrucelli committed the alleged offenses while she was employed as the Office Manager for Automotive Acquisitions, d/b/a Manchester Mitsubishi. According to the Complaint, Petrucelli created a continuous interchange of fraudulent checks between a personal bank account she maintained at the Bank of New Hampshire and a bank account the car dealership maintained at Citizens Bank, knowing that there were insufficient funds in the accounts to cover the checks. The Complaint also alleges that this method of fraud, which is commonly referred to as a "check kite," permitted Petrucelli to obtain the use of the affected banks' funds without the knowledge and consent of the banks, and exposed both banks to a loss of approximately \$168,000.00.

The Complaint further alleges that in an apparent effort to conceal her mismanagement of the dealership's finances, Petrucelli knowingly deposited three counterfeit checks, totaling more than \$1,000,000.00, to the car dealership's bank account shortly after the dealership was sold in November 2003.

If Petrucelli is convicted of bank fraud, she could receive a prison sentence of up to 30 years and be fined up to twice the amount of the gain or loss that was caused by the offenses. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Kinsella is prosecuting this case.

A criminal complaint is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.